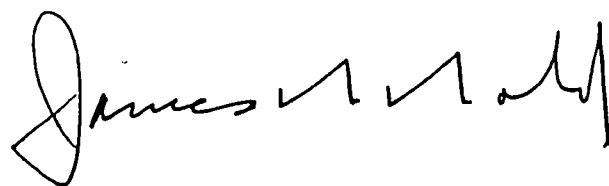


I regret very much that our findings were not more positive in the case of your son, Sergeant Ramirez. We have taken our obligation to pursue the cases of our service members and civilians very seriously. It is only with great reluctance that we have come to this conclusion.

Those of us who have worked to account for your son and for our other brave Americans consider ourselves privileged to have done so. Even though his remains may never be recovered, Sergeant Ramirez's name and memory will long be honored by this nation.

Sincerely,



James W. Wold
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
(POW/MIA Affairs)

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INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

2400 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2400



11 DEC 1995
In reply refer to:
I-95/54382

Dear Mrs. Franziska Montez:

In October 1994, the Department of Defense initiated a comprehensive review of each case involving an American serviceman or civilian who is unaccounted for as a result of United States involvement in the war in Southeast Asia. Analysts of the Defense Prisoner of War and Missing In Action Office, Joint Task Force-Full Accounting and the United States Army Central Identification Laboratory worked together to examine carefully all information developed throughout the years. Our efforts included a total review of wartime and post-war intelligence as well as the reports of joint investigation, oral history interviews, and archival research. The results of this diligent, case-by-case review, completed in July 1995, have enabled us to define future actions for achieving the fullest possible accounting.

As a result of this review, coordinated as of July 21, 1995, we have identified the specific next steps to take in the case of your husband, Sergeant First Class Anastacio Montez, United States Army, REFNO 1449. Subsequent actions, if necessary, will be based upon the outcome of these endeavors.

As you know, your husband was killed when his unit engaged an enemy force in South Vietnam in 1969. As enemy forces pressed the attack, members of his unit were forced to leave his body behind as they withdrew. A joint American-Vietnamese field team investigated Sergeant Montez' loss in January 1994. No witnesses could be located as the area was uninhabited during the war and is still uninhabited today. The last known location for Sergeant Montez was searched with negative results.

We have no information as to what happened to the remains of Sergeant Montez after the enemy swept over the area. Further information is required before another field investigation can be conducted. Intelligence reporting has produced a lead that a former Vietnamese soldier has found remains and a U.S. military identification card in the general vicinity of this loss incident. Unfortunately, the report provides few details and is not a firsthand account. Nevertheless, personnel of the Joint Task Force-Full Accounting will attempt to trace this report to the person who is alleged to have the remains, interview him and obtain the remains.

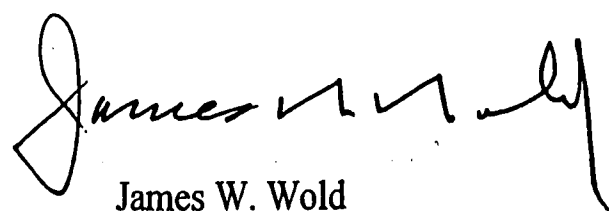
This follow-up action in the case of your husband is being incorporated into our future work plans. The Army casualty office will keep you informed of further developments. In some cases, as you may already be aware, we have completed the actions described above and are in the process of once again reviewing the case. Please know that our efforts will continue.



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We take our obligation to pursue the cases of our brave service members and civilians very seriously. Above all, I want to assure you that Sergeant Montez' sacrifice in service of his country will be honored forever by all Americans.

Sincerely,



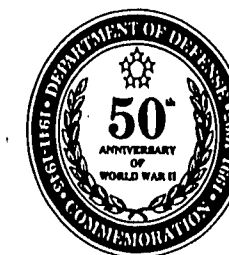
James W. Wold
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
(POW/MIA Affairs)



INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY AFFAIRS

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

2400 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2400



11 DEC 1995
In reply refer to:
I-95/54389

Dear Mr. Ronald Sparks:

In October 1994, the Department of Defense initiated a comprehensive review of each case involving an American serviceman or civilian who is unaccounted for as a result of United States involvement in the war in Southeast Asia. Analysts of the Defense Prisoner of War and Missing In Action Office, Joint Task Force-Full Accounting, and the United States Army Central Identification Laboratory worked together to examine carefully all information developed throughout the years. Our efforts included a total review of wartime and post-war intelligence, as well as the reports of joint investigation, oral history interviews, and archival research. The results of this diligent, case-by-case review, completed on July 21, 1995, have enabled us to define future actions for achieving the fullest possible accounting.

As a result of this review, we identified the specific next steps to take in the case of your brother, Sergeant First Class Donald L. Sparks, United States Army, REFNO 1456. Subsequent actions, if necessary, will be based upon the outcome of these endeavors.

On July 17, 1969, your brother's unit came under small arms fire from bunkered forces in Quang Tin Province, South Vietnam. Your brother was hit by enemy fire and fell to the ground. Two enemy soldiers were seen near his fallen body. Several months later, letters he had written were confiscated from the body of an enemy cadre. These letters revealed that your brother was alive in captivity and had recuperated from his wounds. After their release, other American prisoners of war revealed that enemy camp cadre had told them in the spring of 1970 that a prisoner named "Don" would join them; however, the new POW never arrived.

This case has been investigated by joint American-Vietnamese teams in the loss area four times. Information about your brother's detention and recuperation from his wounds was provided by witnesses who knew him during his initial months of captivity in an enemy field hospital. Unfortunately, nothing concrete has been learned of his fate or disposition subsequent to his transfer westward across a major river in early 1970. A witness claimed that she had heard that he became ill and died, but this story is uncorroborated.

We know that your brother's detention, even while in the hospital, was administered by staff of Military Region Five, even though he never arrived at the Region Five POW camp which held other American prisoners. Further field investigation, without specific leads related to his detention after his transfer from the hospital, is not likely to produce worthwhile information.

